MR. S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*) : At that time, I suppose the member would vote with us.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : Yes.

MR. S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*) : So, he would not be consistent with his present position.

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram* cum *Shencotta*) : I simply said that, as things stand at present, I would rather have the toll-gate in some other place farther off from Trivandrum than at Neduvangad and that the gate must somehow disappear from Neduvangad. That was my main point. It does not mean that I must be committed to that opinion for all time to come. We need oppose it only when a toll-gate comes to be established at some other place on the road.

So far as I am able to see, these are all the objections raised against the resolution. In view of the explanation I have now offered, I hope Mr. Kunjukrishna Pillai also would join with me and support the resolution.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*) : A word of personal explanation, Sir. While dissociating myself from the view expressed by Mr. Karayalar with regard to his acceptance of the suggestion of the toll-gate being shifted to some place farther off from Trivandrum, I now find that there is no need to oppose the *resolution* as it is worded. I therefore withdraw my opposition and lend my support to the resolution as it is worded.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : It is not a question of personal explanation. You are making your position clear.

MR. J. S. WESTERDALE (*Chief Engineer*) : I may say a word about the comparison between the income from the Neduvangad Toll-gate and the total income from tolls, and the statement by the mover that the former is comparatively insignificant. If this toll-gate is abolished because the revenue from it is only Rs. 14,000, other representations would be coming forward from other localities where the income from tolls is equally small. There are gates which fetch 20,000, 27,000 and even 6,000.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: But Mr. Karayalar did not rest his case on this point alone. His case was rested on the question of distance also, among other points.

So, you do not accept the resolution, Mr. Westerdale ?

MR. J. S. WESTERDALE (*Chief Engineer*) ; No, Sir.

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram* cum *Shencotta*): I press the resolution.

The resolution was put to vote and carried.

REMISSION OF LAND REVENUE.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*) : I beg to move the following resolution :—

"This Council recommends to the Government that, in view of the present economic depression, 50 per cent. of the land revenue for 1107 be remitted."

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[Mr. A. S. Damodaran Asan.]

Sir, I do not want to make a long speech. It is admitted that there is economic depression in the country and this matter has been brought to the notice of this Council and the Government at the last Budget discussion and I moved a resolution during the discussion in which it was pointed out by most of the members that it was absolutely necessary that some relief should be given to the agricultural population in the land. The same matter was discussed day before yesterday in this Council and many arguments in support of my resolution were advanced at that time. In view of the fact that there is very little time, I move this resolution for the consideration of the House for the reasons which had been advanced on those occasions also. With these words, I place the resolution for the consideration of the House.

MR. M. P. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*) : സർ, ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ സാമ്പത്തികാധഃപതനത്തെ പരിഗണിച്ച് ഫ.ഫ.o ം-ലെ ഭൂനികുതിയിൽ ഒ o ശതമാനം കുറയ്ക്കണമെന്നുള്ള മിസ്റ്റർ ദാമോദരൻ ആശാന്റെ പ്രമേയത്തെ ഞാൻ അനുകൂലിക്കുന്നു. രാജ്യത്തിലെ ഉൽപന്നങ്ങളുടെ വില കൂടുതലായിരുന്നകാലത്തു് കണ്ടെഴുത്തു് നടത്തി; അതനുസരിച്ചു് നിശ്ചയിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള ഭൂനികുതിയാണു് ഇപ്പോഴും പിരിച്ചുവരുന്നതു്. ആ കാലത്തെ ജീവിതാവശ്യത്തിനു ഇപ്പോഴുള്ളതുമാതിരി ആവശ്യം ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നില്ല. ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ ജീവിതാവശ്യങ്ങൾ വളരെ വളരെ വർദ്ധിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു. ഉൽപന്നങ്ങൾക്കു വില വളരെ കുറയുകയും ജീവിതാവശ്യങ്ങൾ വർദ്ധിക്കുകയും ചെയ്തുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്ന ഈ കാലത്തു് ജനങ്ങളുടെ ദാരിദ്ര്യത്തെ കുറയ്ക്കുന്നതിനു് ഭൂനികുതിയിൽനിന്നും ഒ ം ശതമാനം കുറയ്ക്കണമെന്നുള്ള അഭിപ്രായത്തെ ഞാൻ അനുകൂലിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Commerce and Industry, North*) : ഞാൻ ഈ പ്രമേയത്തെ അനുകൂലിക്കുന്നു. കഷ്ടപ്പെട്ടുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്ന കൃഷിക്കാരുടെ രക്ഷയ്ക്കായി വലിയ ഒരു സഹായം അഭ്യർത്ഥിക്കുന്ന ഒരു പ്രമേയമാണു് ഇതു്. ജനങ്ങളുടെ സ്ഥിതി ഏറ്റവും പരിതാപകരമാണെന്നു് ഇന്നലെ ഓരോ സംഗതികളെപ്പറ്റി വിമർശിച്ചപ്പോൾ പല മെമ്പറന്മാരും വ്യക്തമാക്കിയിട്ടുണ്ടു്. അർദ്ധബുദ്ധിയോടുകൂടി ഈ കാര്യം വീക്ഷിക്കുന്ന എല്ലാവർക്കും ഇതു് അറിയാവുന്നതാണു്. എന്നാൽ ഇങ്ങിനെ ചെയ്താൽ പണത്തിനു ഗവണ്മെന്റു് എന്തുചെയ്യുമെന്നാണു് ചിന്തിയ്ക്കേണ്ടതു്. ജനക്ഷേമത്തിനാണു് പണം. പണം എവിടെ എന്നു ചോദിക്കുമായിരിക്കാം. എന്നാൽ ജനക്ഷേമം എവിടെ? ജനങ്ങളുടെ ക്ഷേമത്തിനാണു് ഗവണ്മെന്റിലേക്കു നികുതികൊടുക്കുന്നതു്. ജനങ്ങൾ കഷ്ടപ്പെട്ടുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുമ്പോൾ പണം എന്തിനാണു് വച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നതു്? വലിയ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുടെ ശമ്പളം കു

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റച്ച് ഈ വിഷമത്തെ പരിഹരിക്കണം. എല്ലാഡിവിഷനിൽനിന്നും അംഗങ്ങളെ തിരഞ്ഞെടുത്തു് ഒരു കമ്മിറ്റി സംഘടിപ്പിച്ച് അവരുടെ അഭിപ്രായം അറിഞ്ഞ് അതനുസരിച്ച് ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുടെ എണ്ണവും ശമ്പളവും ഉടനെ കുറയ്ക്കണം. പ്രധാനപ്പെട്ട എല്ലാസമുദായങ്ങളിൽനിന്നും കമ്മിറ്റിയിൽ അംഗങ്ങൾ വേണം. അല്ലാതെ ചിലവു ചുരുക്കി രാജ്യത്തിന്റെ ചില ഭാഗങ്ങൾക്കൊ ചില സമുദായങ്ങൾക്കൊ ദോഷം വരുത്തരുതു. ഗവണ്മെൻറിനെ സഹായിക്കണം, ഗവണ്മെൻറ് സുരക്ഷിതമായിരിക്കണം എന്നാണു് പബ്ലിക്ക് വിചാരിക്കുന്നതു്. അല്ലാതെ ഗവണ്മെൻറ് ഒരുവിധത്തിലും ക്ഷയിക്കണമെന്നല്ല. ഗവണ്മെൻറിന്റെ സാമ്പത്തികനിലയെ പരിരക്ഷിക്കുന്നതിനാണ് ഈ മാതിരിയുള്ള ആനുകൂല്യങ്ങൾ ജനങ്ങൾക്കു് ചെയ്യുകൊടുക്കണമെന്ന് ചൂണ്ടിക്കാണിക്കുന്നതു്. ജനങ്ങൾ നല്ലനിലയിലിരുന്നാലെ ഗവണ്മെൻറിനും നല്ലനിലവരൂ ജനങ്ങൾ അതിലേക്കു ചൂണ്ടിക്കാണിക്കുന്നു. ആ മാർഗ്ഗങ്ങളിൽക്കൂടി ഗവണ്മെൻറ് പ്രവർത്തിക്കണം. ഈ പ്രമേയത്തെ ഗവണ്മെൻറിൽനിന്നു സ്വീകരിച്ച് ൫൦ ശതമാനം നികുതി ഉടനെ കുറയ്ക്കണമെന്ന് ഞാൻ ജനങ്ങൾക്കുവേണ്ടി ബലമായി ഉൽബോധിപ്പിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Sir, Mr. Asan has moved a very important and drastic resolution for the acceptance of this House. It is nothing less than the remission of 50 per cent. of the land revenue of the State. Two days ago, when the adjournment motion was moved in this House, the Financial Secretary explained very clearly to the House the present financial position of the Government. He said that the year 1106 closed with a deficit of 12 lakhs of rupees and he feared that this current year for which he had anticipated a very small surplus is going to end in a rather colossal deficit, something to the tune of 15 to 20 lakhs. Now, Sir, that is a position which this House cannot view with equanimity. The financial position of the Government should be a matter of the gravest concern not merely to the Government, but to this House as well, because it is on that that all the activities of the Government depend. Mr. Kunjitomman was asking why Government have reserves? Sir, a succession of two years of deficit would wipe out our reserves. We have got some reserves, no doubt. But to a large extent they are in the Government of India Securities which have depreciated considerably in recent years. So it would be disastrous to sell our reserves now.

Then another way of getting money is to borrow. Borrowing for current expenses is obviously undesirable. We might borrow for capital expenditure. But borrowing for current expenses will be disastrous. It would be adding to the dead-weight debt. Further, who is to repay the amount borrowed? It is the tax-payer who has to find the annual interest.

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MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*): Why is it that Government wanted to take from normal revenue for starting extravagant works such as the Railway and the Water Supply?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: That does not arise.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*): I say that the deficit came in because the Government went on spending from the normal revenue when they ought to have gone in for borrowing.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): When the markets for securities improve we can utilise our reserves and spend them for reproductive capital expenditure.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Is it not to meet contingencies that we have these reserves?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): You can use it for emergencies like famine.

MR. S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): Have the Government pledged their Government of India Securities and borrowed money?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): They did it some years ago.

MR. S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): This year?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Absolutely nothing.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): There is a great deal of danger in borrowing money for current expenses. As it is dangerous for private individuals to borrow for household expenses so is for the Government to borrow money for their current expenses.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): They use their savings in days of scarcity.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): These reserves are for the State. If you borrow you will have to repay. As a matter of fact all the Governments of the world are finding that the one essential factor in economic prosperity is the financial stability of their Government and all members here know very well what the Government of India have done—they have raised taxes—what other Governments are doing, what the Government in England are doing.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): The financial position of the people also has to be considered.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Yes. There are only two ways of balancing a Budget—everybody knows that—either by raising fresh tax or by reducing expenditure by retrenchment in all possible ways without, of course, affecting the utility of the services. There are retrenchments which would cost the tax-payer more than the expenditure. Members are asking Government to take such a drastic step as to abandon revenue to an extent of 20 lakhs of rupees.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): It is not abandoning.

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MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : Remission means abandoning. It is remission, that is asked for. When the members ask Government to remit 20 lakhs of rupees, what other source of income has the State ?

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Is there any doubt as to the meaning of the word abandon ?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : The member raised the question and he has answered it.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : I was speaking of Government being asked to abandon revenue. In this very House we hear demands for various kinds of expenditure. Various members want various kinds of revenue to be abandoned. Some members want export duties to be abolished. It comes to 15 or 20 lakhs. I am not quite sure about the figure.

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*) : 28 lakhs.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : Some want prohibition to be introduced. Some others want tolls to be abandoned Then what is it that remains ?

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Commerce and Industry, North*): ജനങ്ങൾക്ക് വളരെ കഷ്ടതയുള്ളതുകൊണ്ടാണ് ഇപ്രകാരം പറയുന്നതെന്നറിയാമോ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : What remains to us means what remains to the Government which exist for the people.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*) : I want to know whether they will be agreeable to remit at least one of the items recommended in view of the difficulty that is really felt by the people.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : What the Government have already done has been told by Mr. Robinson in his speech on the adjournment motion.

You want new roads and bridges to be constructed, and new school to be built and at the same time you want all the taxes to be cancelled. That is a proposition which the Government cannot for a moment consider.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*) : May I know from the Chief Secretary whether Government *pari pasu* with the carrying out of these recommendations effect retrenchment to the utmost possibility ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : I will just refer to that. As I said, there are only two ways of balancing a Budget. One, as I have already said, is by increasing the revenue. So far, Government have not raised any extra revenue.

Coming to retrenchment, the House is aware that there is already a Retrenchment Committee at work. That committee means seriously to consider all manner of possible retrenchments, both permanent and temporary, to tide over the financial difficulties. They are considering retrenchment even in salaries.

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MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Commerce and Industry, North*): മറ്റ് പലരാജ്യങ്ങളിലും ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുടെ ശമ്പളം കുറച്ചിട്ടും ഇവിടെ ഇതുവരെ കുറക്കാത്തതെന്തുകൊണ്ടാണ്?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The Retrenchment Committee is considering that.

MR. K. P. ABRAHAM (*Muvattupuzha* cum *Todupuzha*): How does the retrenchment of the officers' salaries relieve the distress of the people?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): That is one means of finding money.

MR. K. P. ABRAHAM (*Muvattupuzha* cum *Todupuzha*): How does it go to the peoples' pocket? How are the people benefited thereby?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): What is suggested is "Retrench salaries and incur all expenses demanded by the people, and remit taxes." That is how people view the position.

MR. K. P. ABRAHAM (*Muvattupuzha* cum *Todupuzha*): May I know whether the Government have done anything substantially for the people?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I propose to speak on that. A good deal has been said about the retrenchment in salaries. I do not want to dwell at length on that point. Some speakers think that the salaries are a gold mine from which you can get enormous treasure to meet all manner of expenses. Well I made a calculation the other day and I found that the expenditure on officers getting a salary of Rs. 150 and above is 18 lakhs out of a total expenditure of about 90 lakhs on salaries.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*): What is the amount for officers getting Rs. 100 and above?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I am speaking of officers getting Rs. 150 and above. It comes to about 18 lakhs. The bulk of the salaries goes to officers getting below that. It is about 72 lakhs. So if you cut the salaries of higher officers alone you can get nothing to meet our present emergency.

MR. O. M. THOMAS (*Kottayam*): 18 lakhs is a respectable sum.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): It is a respectable sum in the total. But how much will you cut out of it?

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*): May I know whether some of these posts cannot be abolished?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The Committee is considering that also. As many posts as possible will be abolished consistent with the efficient running of the service. If the members examine the Budget, as my friends in the Retrenchment Committee have examined, they will find that there are not many posts that can be abolished. For example, take the Education Department. What is the meaning of abolishing posts there? It means abolishing teachers and that means the reduction of a large number of schools or something like that.

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MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*) : Why not abolish the post of the Director who does not know how to direct under the present circumstances ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : I do not know whether it is a practicable proposition. I was pointing out the instance of teachers only as an illustration.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*) : He said only teachers can be abolished. Not only teachers but every officer who is not absolutely necessary under the present circumstances can be abolished.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : That question is not directly before the House. There is not much to be got by way of retrenchment, that is what he says.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*) : I understood the Chief Secretary to say that only teachers can be reduced.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : My point was only this. If you examine the various departments, Education, Medical or Agricultural, in all these Departments you will find the abolition of posts would necessarily mean curtailment of service. If you want a saving in the Medical Department you will have to abolish a hospital or a dispensary. If you abolish an Assistant Surgeon or a Sub-Assistant Surgeon you reduce so much service to the people. We have been very carefully examining in many directions in all these Departments and we find that the number of posts that could be abolished is very small. After all you may abolish the post of a clerk here and a typist or a peon there. What does that save ?

Then, Sir, I have been asked pointedly what the Government have done so far to remedy the distress of the people. I have got a list of things which the Government have done. Some of them have been mentioned by Mr. Robinson.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : They will stand repetition.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : Government suspended coercive action in the latter half of 1106. They suspended the levy of demand notice fees in the second half of 1106.

MR. N. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*) : Is it not a fact that the concession lasted only for a few days ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : No ; more than three months. Even refunds were made for demands issued during the period. Then the rate of commutation of Kandukrishi rent was first reduced from 24 to 20 chuckrams and subsequently to 18 chuckrams and as a further concession Government allowed the rent to be paid in kind. Then agricultural loans have been given very liberally and freely particularly to the people in Kuttanad. Government have made special arrangements for giving loans for pumping water for the purpose of cultivation and roughly a lakh of rupees has been spent on that.

MR. O. M. THOMAS (*Kottayam*) : A lakh of rupees on how many persons ?

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MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I have got only the amount spent for the Kuttanad people on loans. The allotment of agricultural loans has been increased. Government are giving special instructions for the disbursement of small loans to the poorer class of people.

MR. K. P. ABRAHAM (*Muvattupuzha* cum *Todupuzha*): What is the amount set apart for loans?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): 4½ lakhs of rupees.

MR. S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): Has the whole amount been disbursed?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): No.

MR. S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): What percentage has been disbursed?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I have not got the figures.

MR. S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): No member representing the Government is in a position to say that.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The total amount is Rs. 4½ lakhs. Then Government very often get applications for extension from time from those who have to repay the instalments of agricultural and industrial loans. In all suitable cases Government are giving that concession so that men who have to pay should not be put to very great difficulties. Then very often persons who have to pay the instalments of *taravila* apply to Govenment for extension of time. In all cases where Government are convinced that there is hardship they sanction the postponement of payment of the instalments. Government have reduced the tax on rubber lands from Rs. 2 to Re. 1. Then to help the poor fishermen the license fee on pachil *changadoms* has been reduced. Tariff on several articles has been reduced, mostly on the produce of the cocoanut tree. Then finally, as the Financial Secretary told the House the other day, the Land Mortgage Bank is going to be an accomplished fact.

MR. S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): In spite of the depression and the financial stringency of Government.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): We might issue debentures for raising money for this purpose. There may be people who have got surplus money, who may be willing to invest.

So the charge made against the Government that they have done nothing is not quite fair, because Government have been mindful of the distress of the people and they have taken steps and are still taking steps to relieve them.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Who said that Government have done nothing?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The trend of the whole speeches is that very little is being done. I think they have done far more than many other Governments have done.

MR. S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): How much of the agricultural loans has till now been disbursed?

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MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): No figures are available.

MR. S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): Some approximate amount will do. Why I repeat this question is that my own impression is that the officers concerned are putting all sorts of obstacles.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Did you send in representations to the Land Revenue Commissioner?

MR. S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): I sent up some questions but they have not been answered. Is it always possible to go about making complaints against the local officers? Of course, when representations are sent they will be sent to the Tahsildars for report and no report will reach the Land Revenue Commissioner, and eventually no action will be taken on that. When I sent up these questions, I thought we would be able to get some information and would then be in a position to give the officers some opportunity for explaining the matter. I sent definite questions with regard to several taluks and with regard to the policy adopted in regard to the matter. But I did not get any reply. The thing is, I want to know whether it is not a lip sympathy by saying that Rs. $4\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs is set apart for agricultural loans and not paying the people in their difficulty.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: That is a question to be put at the end of the year.

MR. S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): The Chief Secretary said that Government have done a good deal for the people by setting apart Rs. $4\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs by way of agricultural loans. It is that which has provoked this question.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Do you expect the Central Government to go to every taluk and arrange for the disbursement of the loans?

MR. S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): These officers form part of the Government and if they do not do it, it must be with some instructions.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Which taluk did not get?

MR. S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): The general impression is that the money is not being properly disbursed. At the same time I must say to the credit of the Government that in the Industries Department more than 75 or 80 per cent. has already been doled out. I cannot say whether the information is correct. I am open to correction.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): At present I have no information before me. The Land Revenue Commissioner will certainly look into the matter and issue whatever instructions are necessary so that Government's intention may be fulfilled.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: It is certainly intended to be paid.

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Commerce and Industry, North*): ഡിവിഷൻകോടതികളും നിറുത്തിയാൽ ഒരുവലിയ തുക ലാഭമായി വരുകയില്ലേ?

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MR. K GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): അങ്ങിനെചെയ്താൽതന്നെയും എത്ര രൂപാ ലാഭംകിട്ടാൻപോകുന്നു? ഫ, ൭ ൦ ൦ രൂപാ ലാഭം വരുമായിരിക്കും. അതുകൊണ്ട് എന്തു പ്രയോജനം? പിന്നീട്ട കച്ചേരികൾ കൂടുതലായിവേണ്ടിവരും.

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Commerce and Industry, North*): പേഷ്കാരുദ്യോഗങ്ങൾ നിറുത്തിയാൽ പിന്നെ അവരുടെ സ്റ്റാഫ് വേണമെന്നുണ്ടോ? അതും ലാഭമല്ലേ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): പേഷ്കാരന്മാർ ഇല്ലെങ്കിൽ അവരുടെ ജോലികൾ ചെയ്യാൻ കൂടുതൽ കച്ചേരികളും കൂടുതൽ ആളുകളും വേണ്ടിവരും.

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Commerce and Industry, North*): ദേവസ്വം കായ്ക്കളും റവന്യൂകായ്ക്കും പേഷ്കാരന്മാർ നോക്കിവന്നിരുന്നകാലത്തു അവക്കു ജോലി കൂടുതലുണ്ടായിരുന്നു. പിന്നീട്ട ദേവസ്വത്തെ മാറ്റിയെങ്കിലും റവന്യൂകായ്ക്കുത്തിനായി മാത്രം പ്രത്യേകം കമ്മീഷണരേയും ഡിവിഷൻ അസിസ്റ്റൻറന്മാരെയും വച്ചു ചിലവു് വർദ്ധിപ്പിച്ചിരിക്കുകയല്ലെ ചെയ്തിരിക്കുന്നതു്? ആ സ്ഥിതിക്കു പേഷ്കാരുദ്യോഗങ്ങൾ നിറുത്തൽ ചെയ്തുകൂടെ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): അവക്കൊരുത്തക്കും ഇപ്പോൾ ജോലി കുറവില്ല.

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Commerce and Industry, North*): അങ്ങിനെയാണെങ്കിൽ ഇനിയും കുറേപ്പേരെ കൂടുതലായി വച്ചാലും അവക്കും ജോലി ഉണ്ടാകാതിരിക്കുമോ?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: ആ സംഗതിയെപ്പറ്റി ആലോചിക്കുന്നതിനല്ലേ ഇപ്പോൾ ഒരു റിട്രഞ്ച്മെൻറു കമ്മറ്റി ഏർപ്പെടുത്തിയിരിക്കുന്നതു്? ആ കമ്മറ്റി ഈ സംഗതികളെല്ലാം ആലോചിക്കും.

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Commerce and Industry, North*): റിട്രഞ്ച്മെൻറ്കമ്മിറ്റിയെ ഈ കൗൺസിലിൽനിന്നുമല്ല തിരഞ്ഞെടുത്തിട്ടുള്ളതു്.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: ആരു നിയമിച്ചാലും ഇപ്പോൾ ഒരു റിട്രഞ്ച്മെൻറുകമ്മറ്റി ആലോചന നടത്തുന്നുണ്ടു്. അതിൽ മെമ്പറിൻറ അഭിപ്രായങ്ങളെ എഴുതിഅയച്ചാൽ അതിനെപ്പറ്റിയും കമ്മറ്റിക്കാർ കഴിവുള്ളിടത്തോളം ആലോചന നടത്തുന്നതാണു്. അതല്ലാതെ ഈ കൗൺസിലിൽ പറഞ്ഞാൽ എന്തുചെയ്യും? അതിലേക്കു സമാധാനം പറയാനുള്ള അവസരമാണൊ ഇതു്?

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MR. T'ARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Commerce and Industry, North*): ആ സംഗതിയെപ്പററി ഗവണ്മെൻറുദ്യോഗത്തുനിന്നും പറഞ്ഞുവന്നകൂട്ടത്തിൽ അതിൻെറ ഡീറെയിൽസിനെപ്പററി ചോദിച്ചതാണ്.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: ഏതെല്ലാം ഉദ്യോഗങ്ങൾ നിറുത്താം? ആരുടെ എല്ലാംശമ്പളങ്ങൾ കുറയ്ക്കാം? എന്നുള്ള സംഗതികളെപ്പററി ആലോചിച്ചതിൽ ഫ ൪ ൦ രൂപായ്ക്കുമേൽ ഉള്ളവരുടെ ശമ്പളത്തുക ഫ വ ലക്ഷമേയുള്ളൂ. അവരുടെ ശമ്പളം കുറച്ചാലും വളരെ നിസ്സാരമായ സംഖ്യയെ കിട്ടുകയുള്ളൂ. വലിയ ഒരു തുക ഇവിടെ ആവശ്യമായിരിക്കുന്നു. ആ സംഗതികളെപ്പററിയാണു ചീഫ്സെക്രിട്ടറി പറയുന്നത്.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Is the Chief Secretary aware that the Government of the Federated Malaya States have given a remission of fifty per cent?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Perhaps, their position is different.

I have nothing more to say except that the proposition is quite impossible to accept.

MR. JOSEPH KUNJU (*Changanachery* cum *Peermade*): ഞാൻ പ്രമേയത്തെ അനുകൂലിക്കുന്നു. എൻെറ പ്രതീക്ഷയ്ക്കു നേരെ വിപരീതമായ ഒരു സംഭവമാണ് ഇവിടെ ഉണ്ടായിട്ടുള്ളതു്. ശ്രീ ചിത്തിരതിരുനാൾ മഹാരാജാവു് തിരുമനസ്സുകൊണ്ടു് തിരുമൂപ്പു് ഏറെറടുത്തിട്ടുള്ള ഈ അവസരത്തിൽ ആ തിരുമനസ്സിനോടു് വാത്സല്യമുള്ള പ്രജകളുടെ രക്ഷയെ പരിഗണിച്ചു് ഇപ്രകാരം ഒരു കുറവു ചെയ്യേണ്ടതു് അത്യാവശ്യമാണെന്നു് ആരും സമ്മതിക്കുന്നതാണു്. ഇങ്ങനെ സന്ദർഭോചിതമായ വിധത്തിൽ ഈ പ്രമേയം കൊണ്ടുവന്ന മിസ്റ്റർ ദാമോദരൻ ആശാനു ഞാൻ കൃതജ്ഞത പ്രകടിപ്പിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു. ഗവണ്മെൻറുഭാഗത്തു നിന്നും ഈ പ്രമേയത്തെ സ്വീകരിച്ചുകൊള്ളുമെന്നു വിചാരിച്ചിരിക്കെ ചില മുടന്തൻ ന്യായങ്ങളുംകൊണ്ടു് അതിനെ എതിർക്കുന്നതിനു ഗവണ്മെൻറു ചീഫ്സെക്രിട്ടറി പുറപ്പെട്ടിരിക്കുന്നതു് എതിരായും പരിതാപകരമാണെന്നു പറയാതെ നിവർത്തിയില്ല. ലക്ഷക്കണക്കിനു് രൂപാ കണ്ടമാനം വ്യയംചെയ്യുന്ന ഈ ഗവണ്മെൻറു്, കുടികളുടെ രക്ഷയ്ക്കുവേണ്ടി ഇതുമായ സംഖ്യ—നിസ്സാരമായ സംഖ്യ—ഇളവു ചെയ്യണമെന്നുപറയുമ്പോൾ, അതിനെ എതിർക്കുന്നതായികാണുന്നതിൽ സങ്കടപ്പെടാതെ നിവർത്തിയില്ല. പ്രജാവത്സലനായ ശ്രീ ചിത്തിരതിരുനാൾ പൊന്നുതിരുമേനി തിരുമൂപ്പുകയേറെറടുത്തിട്ടുള്ള ഈ വർഷത്തിൽ പ്രജകളുടെ രക്ഷയെ പരിഗണിച്ചു് ൫ ൦ ശതമാനം കരം ഇളവുചെയ്യണമെന്നുള്ള ഈ പ്രമേയത്തെ എല്ലാവരും അനുകൂലിക്കണമെന്നു അപേക്ഷിച്ചു

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[Mr. Joseph Kunju.]

കൊണ്ട് മിസ്റ്റർ ഉമ്മോദരൻ ആശാൻ ഇവിടെ അവതരിപ്പിച്ച പ്രമേയത്തെ ഞാൻ പിൻതാങ്ങിക്കൊള്ളുന്നു.

MR. O. M. THOMAS (*Kottayam*): Sir, the Chief Secretary to Government has not only opposed the resolution, but has said something to imply that we are a set of incredibly unreasonable people to have brought forward or supported this resolution. He says that if fifty per cent. of the land revenue of the State is reduced, it will be impossible for the Government to function. In justification of his own position he said that Government in spite of a deficit in the Budget have not enhanced the land revenue to any extent. He is only taking shelter under a technical justification. It is true that land revenue has not been enhanced.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: He said that no new taxes have been imposed.

MR. O. M. THOMAS (*Kottayam*): But taxes in other shapes have been enhanced. I saw an announcement in the *Government Gazette* the other day with regard to enhancement of the duty on tobacco in its raw form.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): It is a luxury.

MR. O. M. THOMAS (*Kottayam*): I should think; and I am sure the Deputy President will also agree with me, when I say, that tobacco in its raw form is the necessity of a common man in Travancore.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Don't drag in the Deputy President also with you.

MR. O. M. THOMAS (*Kottayam*): Well, then it is left out.

I think many people in this House will agree when I say that tobacco in its raw form is the necessity of the common man of Travancore; and the duty on it has been enhanced. Certainly in these days of depression, when Government ought to give a substantial relief in the shape of remission of tax, this additional duty is a very severe burden. Perhaps, the justification for that also will be that the Government must find some money to feed the departments of public utility. The ordinary ryot is aggrieved over the fact that the public utility services are not sufficiently useful, that a large portion of the land revenue of the State is consumed by salaries and allowances. In the last Budget session, this question was driven home to the Government and the Financial Secretary said that nearly 91 lakhs of rupees are spent on salaries alone. I am not sure whether that figure includes allowances of Government officials also. We must take the statement of official members with the utmost possible degree of caution, because they always take shelter under technical phrases and clauses. The Financial Secretary's figure does not ostensibly include amounts spent on allowances.

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): It includes allowances also.

MR. O. M. THOMAS (*Kottayam*): Anyhow, 91 lakhs includes both pay and allowances. That is a very substantial portion of the total revenue of the State. Certainly, that much is not spent on public utilities.

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MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Is payment to a medical man expenditure on public utilities?

MR. O. M. THOMAS (*Kottayam*): Not to such an abnormal extent.

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Is it in the nature of a public utility?

MR. O. M. THOMAS (*Kottayam*): It is, if reasonable.

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I am asking whether the service is a utility to the public if the payment be abnormal?

MR. O. M. THOMAS (*Kottayam*): Certainly not. Abnormal rate of pay is detrimental to public interest; and we have examples of that in Travancore itself.

The Chief Secretary said that the Government of Travancore are really doing much more than most Governments have done in the matter of giving relief to the ryots. I ask whether there is any Government within his knowledge that has delayed the question of retrenchment to this unconscionably long period as the Government of Travancore? Almost every other Government have already solved this question, but the Government of Travancore are lagging behind.

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Has the Government of Cochin effected any retrenchment?

MR. O. M. THOMAS (*Kottayam*): Yes, last year. Other Governments have solved this problem long ago, much longer than the Government of Travancore thought of attending to it.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Do you mean to say that some form has been resolved upon or that it has been given effect to?

MR. O. M. THOMAS (*Kottayam*): Resolved upon and given effect to already—that is to say, other Governments have beaten us in this respect.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The expenditure has been curtailed by several lakhs.

MR. O. M. THOMAS (*Kottayam*): I am speaking of retrenchment in salaries.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): May I know whether any other Government have given so many concessions at this time of depression as our Government have done in the way of delaying payment of taxes, grant of agricultural loans, etc. I doubt if any Government have done half as much?

MR. O. M. THOMAS (*Kottayam*): My own point of view is that almost every other Government have given greater concessions in the shape of retrenchment of salaries.

MR. K KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*): May I know whether there is any Government other than the Government of Travancore that has increased the salary of some of its officers during the time of financial stringency?

MR. O. M. THOMAS (*Kottayam*): Certainly not, to my knowledge.

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MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*): Does the member know of any instance where salaries have been increased when this gloom of economic depression was on us?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Don't interrupt the trend of the discussion, please.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*): I was only putting the converse side of the case that not only have the Government of Travancore not effected any retrenchment as other Governments have done, but they have increased the salaries of some officers.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: The question of Mr. Robinson was "Can you refer to any other Government which have done so much for its people as the Government of Travancore?" Mr. Thomas, you may answer that.

MR. O. M. THOMAS (*Kottayam*): My opinion is that every other Government have done because they have solved the question of reduction of salaries.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): Any specific instance?

MR. O. M. THOMAS (*Kottayam*): For example, the Government of the United Provinces have given greater concessions than the Government of Travancore. But now, they are threatening to withdraw those concessions on account of the adverse situations prevailing there—the no-rent campaign.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): Have the Government of Travancore levied new taxes or have they raised any tax as British India has done?

MR. O. M. THOMAS (*Kottayam*): Well, the position of the Land Revenue Commissioner of the Government of Travancore is very different from that of a layman like me. I have not the resources to quote statistics. But, only yesterday, Mr. Robinson pleaded absence as an excuse for his inability to furnish us with figures. I believe there is continuity for the Government of Travancore, and although he was absent from the State, the Government of Travancore functioned; and he should have had the figures at the tip of his fingers. If Mr. Robinson had so much difficulty, how much more difficult will it be for a layman like me who has not the resources as the Land Revenue Commissioner has to quote figures and statistics off-hand? I have given one positive instance the Government of the United Provinces have done more for the ryots than the Government of Travancore have. Does the Revenue Commissioner contradict that?

Another point that I was talking about is about the reduction of salaries. My grievance is that the Government of Travancore have not yet tackled this problem whereas most other Governments have.

Another side of the picture is that the Government of Travancore have created some new posts in spite of the threatened deficit of about 12 lakhs of rupees in the current year's Budget. That is an incredibly

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unreasonable position, a sort of position which is attributed to us, non-official members of this House, by the Chief Secretary. Is it reasonable at this stage. when everybody is suffering, to create new posts on very high rates of pay? Certainly not. No Government with an iota of sympathy would ever have done that. In these circumstances, we cannot but press for a substantial reduction of land revenue. If 50 per cent. in high, let Government give us an undertaking that they will give a remission of, say, 30 per cent. Have the Government the grace, the heart of grace, to meet us at least half-way? Certainly it behoves the Government to do that in this particular instance, where it is not imaginary grievance but real, acute, intense, immeasurable gievance that we suffer from. Sir, if logic does not appeal to the esteemed officals who sit there, let at least arguments of *ad misericordium*. The ordinary man is crushed ; you are squeezing him and you could hear the pin pricks. It is unreasonable, it is inequitable, it is intolerable ; and Government are paving the way for a dangerous situation if they continue at this rate. When I suggested the possibility of a dangerous situation on another occasion, somebody in this House, a very esteemed member, said that he relied on the strong arm of the Commissioner of Police. But I say however efficient Mr. Bishop be in the control of situations, especially unpleasant situations, that might arise in the future, the situation is likely to go beyond control and it is up to statesmanship to solve it before that occasion arises. Concession is the only way in which we can conciliate a large body of people who have real, legitimate grievances.

MR. JOSEPH KUNJU (*Changanachery* cum *Peermade*): Sir, I move for a closure.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Mr. Robinson who is in charge of the resolution has not spoken ; many members have not spoken. Moreover, this is a question bristling with difficulties, demanding earnest consideration whether in the present financial situation a relief can be given under the head of land revenue, and, if so, the extent of it. You cannot move for a closure ; and I am not bound to consider it.

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Mr. Joseph Kunju has no right to move for a closure at all because he has already spoken.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: That is another aspect of the question. In common fairness, the question deserves further investigation and I do not see my way to agree to the proposal to apply a closure. The next alternative will be to close the business of the day and rise, and adjourn *sine die*.

The council adjourned *sine die* at 5. 5 P. M.

K. P. VISWANATHA AIYAR,
Secretary to the Legislative Council.

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